

The Voter THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF MENDOCINO COUNTY

Empowering voters, defending democracy February 2025 Jary Stavely and Dorine Real, Editors

February meeting ... What Should We Do Now?

by Charlene McAllister

Local and California League priorities Join us on February 18 via Zoom for our annual Program Planning session. It is part of what makes the League a grassroots organization, as every member has the opportunity to influence the selection of issues on which the local and state

Zoom from home

Tuesday February 18 6:00 pm **CLICK HERE** to join

Leagues will focus our time, talent and money. It takes the enthusiasm and interest of our members to keep our programs vital. You would never skip voting in an election, so you shouldn't skip the League's equivalent. Program Planning is will we go about that? Shall we do community education, or advocacy on an issue? For the California League, this occurs every two years in advance of the state Climate Change with an emphasis on water; on Making Democracy Work; on

your voice. Where should we engage; where can we make a difference and how Convention. And this year you will be asked to help make a decision as to which Issues for Emphasis should be priorities. The past two years saw LWVC focus on Criminal Justice Reform; and on Housing and Homelessness. Shall we continue with three of these issues or are there new issues to be looked at (a reminder: some issues are National, not State)?

For the Mendocino County League, where would do you see us putting our energy? We want to pick two issues to focus on. Where can we make an impact? What is most important to our county? What needs to be better understood by our members and the community? We hope that you will be motivated to join in a committee to work on the issue(s) you choose. Here are some suggestions: Climate Change/ Sea Level Rise; Water; Transportation; Civic Health/Health of Democracy; Land Use.

provided alongside. Effective Action

Links

article.

10 AM Zoom What Should We Do Now? All Advocacy is Local Zoom 6 PM County Transportation Plan LCP Updates Report

6:00 PM Zoom Youth in the News Coast and Region 6:00 John Dietrich Center California League Updates LWVUS News Pardons for January 6 Rioters 6:00 Zoom **LWVMC** Information

friends and neighbors. President's message ... by Charlene McAllister greater impact. Policies around issues like housing access, social services, education,

for change. We can identify boards, and other elected authorities that work on issue areas related to

While the spectacle that is national politics sucks up a lot of airtime and oxygen, the fact of the matter is that issues decided at the local level have a VASTLY

Click these entries to jump to the

communicate information about important votes, actions and policies. Let's put our energy to good use in our own community. If this sounds like a job for you, then contact us at info@lwvmendo.org or 707-937-4952.

information, contact Cindy Plank, Nominations Committee Chair, at cindyplank@gmail.com. County Transportation Plan On the evening of January 21, six people joined presenters Charlene McAllister, Jary Stavely, and Peter McNamee on Zoom for the Mendocino County League of

> Women Voters general meeting concerning local transportation. The Mendocino Council of Governments (MCOG) updates its General and Active Transportation Plans (combined into one document) every 4 years, and is currently doing so, so the League board decided that now is a good time to look at its local and state Positions on transportation, and also to examine the current MCOG plan with a view towards both providing input to the new plan, and also broadening its local transportation position, which could include more elements, as well as take

Charlene opened the meeting with a brief announcement about upcoming League events, and then reviewed the League transportation positions. LWVMC's current position states that we "support a public transportation system that continues to be subsidized and utilizes publicity and convenience to encourage ridership." It was adopted in 1991, after League members, including Charlene herself, devoted

vehicle miles traveled; is efficient, convenient, and cost effective; is safe and secure; serves all segments of the population and diverse geographic needs;

First, that the LCP Updates now underway are studying how climate change and sea level rise are likely to affect coast highways and commerce. Second, that there have been important changes to the rail system, including the "railbanking" of the inland route along the Highway 101 corridor, and the efforts of the Skunk Train to gain, or regain, its status as a federally protected common carrier. Third, that the

Blue Economy effort is moving ahead with funding and projects for future

development in Noyo Harbor. Transportation infrastructure there, both maritime and surface streets, is sure to be affected by sea level rise and climate change.

During the followup discussion, Albion resident Annemarie Weibel pointed out that the Albion harbor (not mentioned in the current MCOG plan) suffers from high moorage fees charged by its owners, and that the new bridge, as foreseen by Caltrans, may block access to Albion Flat, at least for awhile. She also suggested that the endemic flooding which regularly blocks Hwy. 128 is likely to worsen with climate change, and hopes that it can be addressed in the new county plan. South coast League member Dave Shpak feels that his region never receives enough attention from transportation planners. He suggested that it was time for

League Needs New Treasurer

The Mendocino County League of Women Voters (LWVMC) is looking for a Treasurer, beginning July 1, 2025. The Treasurer makes deposits, writes checks, presents statements to the Board at regular monthly meetings, works with the Off Board Budget Chair & Budget Committee to develop an annual proposed budget, files annual tax documents and provides an Annual Report to LWVMC members at the Annual Meeting. QuickBooks is currently being

themselves to a round trip from Fort Bragg to the Navarro River and back on MTA's Route 60, the Coaster. The state position, although more detailed, also focuses on ways to provide alternatives to single passenger car trips. In summary the California League supports "a transportation system to move people and goods which includes a variety of transportation modes, with emphasis on increased public transportation services and other viable alternatives to reduce

climate change into account.

minimizes harmful effects on the environment; is integrated with land use; and is supported by extensive public education." Jary then presented highlights from five elements of the 2021–22 MCOG Transportation Plan: • State Highway System, County Streets & Roads, • ActiveTransportation System—bicycle and pedestrian facilities, Public Transit, and · Aviation. The document, although revised every four years, projects much further into the future. Some projects listed have been completed, while some have not, either because they have yet to be completed, or because they are no longer considered to have priority. Peter continued with a review of the remaining elements: Maritime, Rail, and Tribal Transportation Systems. He also highlighted some issues and concerns which could be important both to the updated MCOG plan, and to League policy:

the county to add a sales tax for transportation needs, just as the cities have done, and that the county plan needs a more robust effort to boost bicycle and pedestrian means of travel. League member Dorine Real would like to see transition hubs which could help those who utilize ride shares, or who go from one form of transit to another. The 75 minute program was recorded on youtube. The complete 2021-22 MCOG plan, a transportation survey, and a tool for making specific suggestions are on the MCOG website. Voter readers who would like to help revise the Mendocino League's transportation position, please attend the February Program Planning meeting on February 18 [see article above]. LCP Updates Report by Jary Stavely Sonoma/Mendocino State Parks Chief Ranger Loren Rex joined regular presenters Julia Krog (County Planning) and Sarah McCormick (Fort Bragg Economic Development) at the GrassRoots Institute's Mendocino Vision

> Workgroup zoom session on January 16. This was the eleventh of its sessions intended to engage the public in efforts to update Mendocino's Local Coastal Plans or LCPs. Julia said that her office was busy preparing the Scope of Work which is needed for selecting a consultant for CEQA compliance. After her office completes this internal review, the official Request for Proposals will be sent out. She is pleased to have four of the water study tasks completed, and her office is nearly finished with the Proof of Water Tests and Guidelines task, which is

> important to future coastal development. The Traffic Highway Capacity Study has

Archeological studies will have produced new reports by the end of the month, so her office will soon be able to produce "final drafts," still subject to public input. The archeological consultants discovered seven times the number of sites they had expected. The biological studies are in an earlier phase, submitting data which will eventually be turned into draft reports. The Sea Level Rise/Vulnerability

faced some delays, but is now moving forward. Both it and the Visual/

Assessment is still in early stages, but Julia expects to be able to give dates for public input to the consultants (ESA) by early March. Loren used MacKerricher State Park at Cleone to illustrate some of the difficulties facing coastal parks these days. Public access to the beach area north of Ward Ave. washed away in 2023, and replacement from such storm damage is often more complicated than a simple repair requisition. There are safety and wildlife protection issues, as well as others. He hopes to have a replacement project soon for that particular access point, as well as an expedited process for future washouts which will inevitably come. In the same park, the degradation of the road separating Lake Cleone from the ocean has led to salt water intrusion, which not only affects wildlife, but is necessitating the development of new water and sewer systems for the campers and picnickers there. He is pleased that the local indigenous community has worked with Parks to identify many cultural sites and provide environmental advice. He hopes that Mendocino County can follow Sonoma's lead in developing a better permit process for vegetation management in the coastal zone. Loren offered to return for the March 20 LCP Update meeting with more details on State Park plans.

Sarah reported that the roadblock to the aquaculture feasibility study in Noyo Harbor, which she had described at the November meeting, has been resolved, so that now they have the necessary permits to study how to raise Pacific oysters, red abalone, and purple sea urchins at the Marine Science station. Dropping bull kelp for this season eased the way for the others. GHD, consultants from Eureka, were to arrive to begin an assessment of harbor infrastructure during the following week, and a Sea Level Rise/Vulnerability survey was to be posted on the Ocean Collective website that very weekend. She introduced her associate Jamie Miller, who described the deliveries of the baby sea animals mentioned above, and told about her attendance at an ocean restoration conference at Long Beach State, where she learned about recent developments in the study of sunflower seastars, whose near total demise played a major role in the recent explosion of the purple urchin population. Sarah also added that the original Coastal Commission LCP update grant has led to additional funding for the Noyo Harbor—a new West Business Center sponsored icehouse, the Marine Science Center future design, Jamie's attendance at the ocean restoration conference, and a mooring basin

After considerable discussion of what had been presented, Peter began a

presentation of specific concerns along the coast which GRI knows about, and which the overall LCP Updates might well address. Starting with the Lost Coast area of the Mendocino coast, he worked through seven slides south through

Caspar, and will present slides for the rest of the coast down to Gualala at the March 20 meeting. The meeting was recorded and can be viewed at the bottom of the Mendocino Vision webpage. Youth in the News from the Mendocino County Office of Education Ten Young Mendocino Poets Recognized According to a post on Facebook from Mendocino County Schools Chief Nicole Glentzer, "All 10 Mendocino County student submissions were selected for the 2023-24 California Poets in the Schools anthology, My Roots, My People! Special thanks to Blake More, Mendocino Area Coordinator and poetry teacher, for organizing this project. Support this inspiring student work by attending the online student reading on February 8th at 10 AM.

California 2025 Youth Senators. Bode is second from left.

Many residents are concerned about immigration status enforcement actions which may take place on the Mendocino coast in the coming weeks. League member Hannah-Leigh Bull reports that on January 13, the Fort Bragg City Council unanimously passed a resolution affirming its commitment to nondiscrimination and support for immigrants in our community. The city also organized a well-attended Town Hall meeting with immigration lawyer Grady Gauthier on January 20, and has prepared a video giving guidance in Spanish to

The Latino Coalition of the Mendocino Coast (LatCo) is holding a series of Know Your Rights trainings led by Miranda Ramos, where families (plus their neighbors and friends) can learn information about what to do in your home, workplace, school, or on the street, during encounters with ICE. The first of these sessions will be held at 6 PM on Thursday, February 20, at the John Diederich Center, just

Non-Latino friends and neighbors can be helpful as witnesses in such encounters. Margaret Holub, of the Mendocino Coast Jewish Community, and John Carrick,

volunteers for helping with our nonprofit operations in Fort Bragg during the day. These unpaid volunteer positions provide meaningful benefit to our community,

Office Assistant for general operations—if you like being organized, then you can be part of our office management team providing support in our office in Fort Bragg as we help with health and wellness support on the coast between Westport and Gualala. Duties include filing, scanning, and other support activities. Training provided. Hours are flexible and should be 4-8 hours/week, or more if so desired.

Program Assistant for nursing scholarship program—you can be part of our nursing workforce development program working directly with a Board member team. Hours are flexible and should be 4-6 hours per week, or more if so desired.

For more information or to submit an application contact

New Water Position for California League

We are very pleased to announce that the LWVC Water Resources position has been updated and approved by the LWVC Board. The Water Resources position, first adopted in 1959 and last updated in 1979, does not acknowledge the current state of water in California, the emerging crisis of climate change in its impact on water resources, nor the growing urgency around water issues. The modifications represent a recognition of circumstances that have changed in the last 45 years.

This is a modern restatement of our existing Water position, incorporating current water language, reflecting the impact of other positions on water and our concerns

around water access for all. Most important, this restatement will help local Leagues better understand and use the position to take action. It ties in well with our Climate Change Action Policy and our Growth Management Action Policy.

Outreach Assistant—if you enjoy writing newsletters, using social media and generally being creative, then this volunteer position could be for you. You will work with Board members to identify health and wellness topics to highlight on Facebook and Instagram as well as assist with publicity for the 40th anniversary of our Winesong fundraiser event in September at the Botanical Gardens. Training provided. Hours are flexible and should be at least 4-6 hours/week, or more if so

Latino families, distributed with the help of local schools.

north of Fort Bragg High School at 208 Dana St.

of the First Presbyterian Church of Fort Bragg, have been co-hosting get-togethers to share information and strategies on building a Rapid Response Network for such situations. Some helpful videos are at www.wehaverights.us. Regional Water Flows Voter readers with concerns about county water resources, the restoration of wildlife habitat, and indigenous affairs, may wish to read an article which appeared in the Press-Democrat on January 21 about the progress of the so-called Two-Basin Solution regarding the dams on the upper Eel River. It begins, "Rep. Jared Huffman, D-San Rafael, recently announced that the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation has awarded Round Valley Indian Tribes and the Sonoma County Water Agency \$15 million toward implementing the Two-Basin Solution for water diversions from the Eel River to the Russian River. In a press release, Huffman explains that 'the funds through the Inflation Reduction Act will fund a major Eel River estuary project supported by the tribes, and put a down payment on construction of a new wintertime diversion to the Russian River following the removal of two salmon-blocking dams on the Eel." The complete article, including file photos, is online. Lost Coast Redwoods Changes Hands On January 10 the Bureau of Land Management announced its acquisition of the Lost Coast Redwoods property from Save the Redwoods League, "ensuring lasting protections of approximately 4,500 acres along eight miles of California

and have flexible hours:

susan@mchfoundation.org.

California League Updates

by LWVC President Chris Carson

desired.

this abuse of presidential power." Land Acknowledgement The League of Women Voters of Mendocino County wishes to honor the land we are on and its native peoples. We want to offer recognition and respect; to counter the "doctrine of discovery" with the true story of the people who were already here; to support larger truthtelling and reconciliation efforts; and to remind ourselves that colonization is still happening. We acknowledge that the land where we live and work is un-ceded territory of indigenous peoples since time began. We are surrounded by the traditional, ancestral

LWV Mission Statement

strives to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy.

The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government,

territory and current homeland of many indigenous nations.

U.S. League Opposes Voting Restrictions The Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act has again been introduced in the House and Senate. This legislation would require citizenship documentation in order to register to vote, despite the fact that voters in every state are already required to affirm or verify their citizenship status when registering. It is already illegal for non-citizens to register and vote in federal or state elections. Additionally, we have processes to ensure our elections are secure and that only eligible voters are casting ballots. State election officials have systems to verify an individual voter's eligibility and ensure voter rolls are accurate.

The bill's requirement of a document to prove American citizenship to register to vote in federal elections is unnecessary and seeks to divide us. Further, it creates one more barrier to the voting process, as many eligible voters do not have easy access to the necessary documents. Compared to white US citizens, citizens of color are three times more likely to lack documents such as birth certificates, passports, naturalization certificates, or certificates of citizenship or face difficulties accessing them. For example, while approximately half of all American adults possess a passport, two-thirds of Black Americans do not.

Legislation like the SAVE Act is another in a long list of tactics, like strict voter photo ID requirements and limitations on voter assistance in languages other than English, which seek to make it more difficult for voters of color and naturalized

Congress must act to ensure that every eligible US citizen has the freedom to vote unimpeded by discriminatory rules rooted in fear and division. Tell your members

citizens to vote. Americans do not need MORE obstacles to voting.

Women Defend Democracy Campaign

of Congress to oppose the SAVE Act.

Pardons for January 6 Rioters

freedoms.

Former League CEO's Statement

Our democracy has been tested, coming to a head in the 2024 elections, and will likely continue to be tested in the months and years ahead. In the first week of the new administration, we saw actions targeting both vulnerable populations and our democracy as a whole. As an organization dedicated to empowering voters and defending democracy, the League of Women Voters will continue our work to protect and expand voting rights and challenge those who seek to undermine democratic principles and processes. "Women Defend Democracy" is the new programmatic focus for the League in 2025, centering people power and moving our country towards a stronger, multi-racial democracy. Through it, the League will work to: provide democracy education and election administration support; restore and defend voting rights protections; abolish the electoral college; protect democracy organizations and institutions; and fight for reproductive

In an appeal for signatures, Virginia Kase Solomón, now President & CEO of

"Just hours after swearing to "defend the Constitution of the United States, against all enemies, foreign and domestic," Donald Trump pardoned over one thousand of them, after speaking in the very same room they ransacked and vandalized on January 6th, 2021. We aren't going to let Trump cover up what

Common Cause, published the following message on January 20:

their colleagues voted later that evening to give the rioters what they wanted. And all the while, Trump egged them on—pushing propaganda and lies about the 2020 election and painting a target on his own Vice President for putting loyalty to the Constitution before loyalty to him. "Americans of all political stripes—Republicans, Democrats, and Independents —were rightly horrified by what they witnessed that day. And now, the insurrectionists who were responsible, despite being convicted by a jury of their peers, will get off without any penalties for their crimes. We simply can't tolerate

Americans. Members of Congress were forced into hiding—while over 100 of

Links

Coastal Plans: https://noyooceancollective.org/surveys/; https://www.grassroots-institute.org/vision Local: https://www.advocate-news.com/2025/01/18/city-and-caltrans-discuss-noyo-river-bridge-safetyissues/; https://docs.google.com/gview? url=https%3A%2F%2Flegistar1.granicus.com%2Fcityfortbragg%2Fmeetings%2F2025%2F1%2F2680 A_Public_Safety_Committee_25-01-15_Meeting_Agenda.pdf&embedded=true; https:// docs.google.com/gview?

url=https%3A%2F%2Flegistar1.granicus.com%2Fcityfortbragg%2Fmeetings%2F2025%2F1%2F2680 A_Public_Safety_Committee_25-01-15_Meeting_Agenda.pdf&embedded=true; www.wehaverights.us;

US war policy: here alone at night with a candle?'

Oh,' Muste replied, 'I don't do this to change the country. I do this so the country won't change me.

Darra Williamson, Dorine Real, Morning Nichols, and I will help guide the

discussion. Please join us at 6 pm on Zoom, and make your voice heard. Your friends and neighbors are welcome to participate, so feel free to share the link

There is a famous story about an antiwar protestor (A.J. Muste) who kept a vigil in front of the White House. A reporter asked Muste whether he thought his nightly vigil would be effective in changing 'Mr. Muste, do you really think you are going to change the policies of this country by standing out

Calendar In this issue ... February 8 (Saturday) Youth Poetry Reading February 11 (Tuesday) LWVMC Board meeting February 18 (Tuesday) Member meeting: Program Planning February 20 (Thursday) Know Your Rights Training

March 18 (Tuesday) Member meeting: Special District Elections March 20 (Thursday) 6:00 Zoom LCP Updates The public is welcome at these events. Please invite your All Advocacy Is Local

parks and public spaces, justice and policing, and more, are all molded by the hands of

local officials, presenting ample opportunity for us to share our expertise and to advocate

League positions. We can attend meetings or monitor the agenda and report back to the League board where action could be taken. Be an observer for the League and directly

used for these reports. Estimated time spent per month is 2 hours or less. For more League looks at

My Roots,

My People

2023-2024 California Poets in the Schools

NCYCP Leader Going Places

was a pleasure to attend the State Board of

Bode Gower, president of the Northern California Youth Policy Coalition and host of KZYX radio show Gower Hour, will attend "Washington Week" as a delegate to the US Senate Youth Program: "It

upgrade plan.

Education meeting where Ukiah High student Bode Gower, and three other outstanding high school students were recognized for being selected to participate in the US Youth Senate Program. My favorite part of the day was hearing Bode recognize his amazing mom, Kathi Gower," said Superintendent Glentzer. Coast and Region City Seeks Suicide Prevention Safety Measures Following the death of a teenager whose remains were found under the Noyo River bridge in December after an anguished weeks-long search, Fort Bragg authorities have asked Caltrans to explore ways to prevent suicides there, including the installation of safety nets. An article by Mary Benjamin about the city's Public Safety Committee meeting on January 15, and a meeting with Caltrans officials the next day, appeared in the Advocate-News on January 23. The agenda for the Public Safety Committee meeting contains the letter Police Chief Cervenka sent to Caltrans Director Tony Taveras requesting the meeting. Supporting Immigrant Families

coastline." BLM issued a press release, which promises benefits to wildlife habitat and wilderness access. See also a Save the Redwoods map covering 2,200 acres of the property north of Rockport. Healthcare Foundation Seeks Volunteers by Susan Warner Are you retired and have some free time? Would you like to volunteer your career capabilities locally? If so, the Mendocino Coast Healthcare Foundation is seeking

State League Opposes Dangerous Idea In a fundraising announcement, Dora Rose of the California League office warned against writing a new federal constitution: "We're also proud to stand with leaders like Senator Wiener to rescind California's open calls for an Article V Constitutional Convention. This process would open the door to rewriting the Constitution without rules or limits, putting our essential freedoms at risk. It could strip away decades of progress and impose a dangerous agenda. That's why we're taking action to stop this threat before it gains momentum." The state senator's statement is online. LWVUS News

happened. January 6th was an attack against the cornerstone of our democracy the peaceful transfer of power. And no matter what he does today, future generations will remember Trump as the man who incited that attack by lying about the election he lost. "Former President Biden's preemptive pardons for his family members and for his son Hunter's convictions raised serious questions about the president's pardoning power—and people can disagree in good faith about whether they were an overreach. But make no mistake—there is no comparison between that, and Trump shielding people who knowingly and deliberately tried to overthrow our democratic way of life. "I still remember how I felt when I saw a violent mob fight through Capitol Police as they attempted to overturn the voices and votes of 80 million of their fellow

Contact LWVMC By mail: P.O. Box 1128, Fort Bragg CA 95437 By email: voter@mcn.org Message phone: (707) 937-4952 Our website: lwvmendo.org Our Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/LWVMendo1

Transportation meeting: https://youtu.be/V KgNWReOPA; https://my.lwv.org/california/mendocino-county; https://www.mendocinocog.org/files/653d21e36/2022+RTP-ATP+Feb+2022-Final+Adopted.pdf; https:// www.mendocinocog.org/2026-regional-transportation-active-transportation-plan Youth: https://www.cpits.org/

www.savetheredwoods.org/project/lost-coast-redwoods/ LWVC: https://click.everyaction.com/k/101255752/525381503/972336050; https://click.everyaction.com/k/ 101255753/525381504/19894665; https://click.everyaction.com/k/101255753/525381504/19894665; https://sd11.senate.ca.gov/news/amid-threats-rewrite-constitution-senator-wiener-calls-rescindingcalifornias-calls LWVUS: https://default.salsalabs.org/T329f8255-7c02-4e11-93a6-502013c7a280/34be5bff-59c8-45dfbf3a-672b9216f0c7; https://www.lwv.org/take-action/tell-your-members-congress-oppose-save-act; https://default.salsalabs.org/T95efaa09-d4f5-4ca8-9a19-9d59c8248664/34be5bff-59c8-45dfbf3a-672b9216f0c7; https://www.lwv.org/fighting-voter-suppression/women-defend-democracy

https://www.pressdemocrat.com/article/news/russian-river-eel-river-huffman/; https://www.blm.gov/

press-release/blm-acquires-lost-coast-redwoods-property-northern-california; https://